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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 22 with the following:

"FIG. 15 illustrates an example of the alternating process R2. First, after the alternative retrieving process R1, whether there is an alternative or not is determined (S60). When an alternative exists, the response indicative of the presence of an alternative in FIG. 14 (S53) is obtained. When an alternative does not exist, the response indicative of the absence of an alternative in FIG. 14 (S56) is obtained. If an alternative does not exist, an error response is returned (S67). If there is an alternative, a process of writing data in the memory buffer into a free block as the alternative is performed (S61 and S62). The free block is erased before the writing process. The result of the writing process is checked (S63). If the writing process is normally finished, the alternative registration table is updated (S64) and a response indicative of normal end (normal response) is returned (S65). If there is a write error, the alternating process R2 is performed to deal with the write error."